

Why you need to see ... Katy B. Plummer

Katie Milton

[f SHARE](#)
[TWEET](#)
[✉](#)
[MORE](#)

In 1879, Henrik Ibsen penned *A Doll's House*, a three-act play about a 19th-century middle class woman who slowly comes to the realisation that her husband doesn't see her as her own person and so she leaves him and her three children. So radical was the story for its time, that to have the play acted in Germany, Ibsen was forced to write an alternative ending that saw Nora stay with her family.

Drawing parallels to this strong feminist tale, Sydney-based video installation artist Katy B. Plummer has created her own Nora character: a domesticated lion who is released into the wild and has to figure out how to live independently and connect with her instincts after a previously sheltered existence.



Exhibiting now: Katy B. Plummer. Photo: Supplied

In the first part of the story, titled *The Hooved and the Clawed Will Consider Their Violent Blood*, Nora befriends a sheep.

"It's sort of a romantic relationship but the sheep knows that he's dinner. He's really in touch with his place in the world but Nora has no idea and she gradually works out – 'oh I have this really intense feeling – oh my god it's hunger – and that's somehow connected to you' ..." says Plummer.

Like all Plummer's work, the video installation presents an imagined character-driven narrative through intricate, hand-made textile pieces that refer to domestic handicrafts. It also deals with violence.

"It's looking at violence as a problematic aspect of heterosexuality and the inescapable pivot of violence in every relationship. And I'm interested in turning that around and trying to figure out what that feels like from the other side," says Plummer.

This installation, part of a group show at Marrickville's AirSpace Projects called *My Emotionalism*, is the first piece in a larger body of work Plummer will show later this year at Galerie Pompom.

"I'm playing a lot with the idea of a dollhouse and a creature who's too big for her environment," she says. "And while this domestic environment feels familiar and safe, there's this destabilising possibility of violence everywhere you look."

Until June 17, AirSpace Projects, Marrickville; artist talk on Saturday, June 17, 3pm-5pm, airspaceprojects.com

MOST POPULAR

- 1 Red Symons apologises over 'very racist' interview
- 2 Triple J Unearthed winners reject assault allegations
- 3 Why you shouldn't stuff your dead pets
- 4 Alison Brie told to 'take your top off' during audition
- 5 Why sleeping with your partner's identical twin is a bad idea

FOLLOW SPECTRUM

[f FACEBOOK](#)
[TWEET](#)

FOLLOW SMH

[f](#)
[TWEET](#)
[NEWSLETTERS](#)